

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI  
GOVERNOR



March 2, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

Re: Support for the Consensus Plan for 800 MHz Realignment  
*Ex Parte*, WT Docket No. 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write in support of the Consensus Plan for 800 MHz realignment and would encourage the Commission to adopt its provisions.

In Oregon, we have had an increasing number of incidences where public safety radio communications of first responders have been hampered by interference from cellular phones. As a larger portion of the public moves to the use of cell phones as a primary means of communication, there is a commensurate increase in the likelihood of blocked police, fire, and other public communications. In addition to hampering the ability of first responders to effectively carry out their duties to protect the public, it also has the potential for putting public safety personnel at risk.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has before it a Consensus Plan that would address cellular/public safety radio interference problems. I would encourage the FCC not to address this issue in a case-by-case basis. A uniform approach is the best and most consistent method of preventing risk to the public safety of those who have been assigned. Responding in a piecemeal manner to the problems affecting time critical public safety services is not acceptable. A single interference incident can jeopardize the lives of emergency personnel and the lives of the public.

I am aware that the FCC has been working on this for two years. To the extent possible, I would encourage the Commission to act promptly to resolve the issues facing the public safety community by adopting the terms of the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

  
THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI  
Governor

TRK:LCC:lmh